

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A purchase request approving apparatus capable of approving a purchase request of a desired article, comprising:

5 display means for displaying information, which is stored in a database in advance, associated with articles for which approval of purchase is requested; and

purchase approving means capable of storing, in said database, information representing approval or rejection of purchase of an article selected from the articles displayed by said display means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a requester capable of purchase request for the desired article belongs to a group based on predetermined common information, and

15 said apparatus further comprises requester group setting means capable of setting a desired requester group different from the group of requesters for which approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined by said purchase approving means in accordance with the predetermined common information.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and the predetermined common information is an identification code representing each section of the

~~company~~

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus further comprises purchase request means capable of inputting information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and information for  
5 requesting approval of purchase of the article and storing the input information in said database, and

said purchase request means includes display means capable of displaying, before the input information is stored in said database, a list of specific information  
10 associated with a person who can decide approval or rejection of the purchase request from the requester who has input the input information and specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group by said requester group setting means, and selecting  
15 a desired person to whom the requester requests to approve purchase, using the displayed list.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when information representing approval of purchase of the selected article is input and a purchase price of the  
20 article exceeds a predetermined amount, said purchase approving means notifies (a user) of the purchase price exceeding the predetermined amount.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when information representing approval of purchase of the  
25 selected article is input, said purchase approving means deletes, from displayed items associated with the articles

displayed by said display means, displayed items associated with the selected article.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, the apparatus further comprises purchase request means capable of  
5 inputting information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and information for requesting approval of purchase of the article, and storing the input information in said database.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
10 display means is a browser of an internet, which is executed by said purchase request approving apparatus connected to a communication network, and

said purchase approving means is constructed by a predetermined Web page displayed by said browser.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the  
15 purchase request approving apparatus is a client terminal connected to a communication network which (can use an intranet environment.) IV

10. A purchase request approving method of approving a  
20 purchase request of a desired article using a computer, comprising:

a display step of displaying information, which is stored in a database in advance, associated with articles for which approval of purchase is requested; and

25 a purchase approving step of storing, in said database, information representing approval or rejection

of purchase of an article selected from the articles displayed in said display step.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein a requester capable of purchase request for the desired article belongs  
5 to a group based on predetermined common information, and

said method further comprises a requester group setting step of setting a desired requester group different from the group of requesters for which approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined in said purchase approving  
10 step in accordance with the predetermined common information.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and  
the predetermined common information is an  
15 identification code representing each section of the company.

13. The method according to claim 11, the method further comprises a purchase request step of inputting information associated with the desired article to be  
20 purchase-requested and information for requesting approval of purchase of the article, and storing the input information in said database, and

said purchase request step includes a display step of displaying, before the input information is stored in  
25 said database, a list of specific information associated with a person who can decide approval or rejection of the

purchase request from the requester who has input the input information and specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group in said requester group setting step, and allowing to select a

5 desired person to which the requester requests to approve purchase, using the displayed list.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein, in said display step, a browser of an internet is executed on a client terminal connected to a communication network to  
10 display the information associated with the articles, and

in said purchase approving step, information representing approval or rejection of purchase is input to a window on a predetermined Web page displayed by said browser.

15 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said client terminal is connected to a communication network which can use an intranet environment.

16. A computer-readable storage medium comprising:  
a program code for causing a computer to operate as  
20 said purchase request approving apparatus of claim 1.

17. A computer-readable storage medium comprising:  
a program code capable of realizing the purchase request approving method of claim 10 by a computer.